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1951 OUTLOOK ISSUE
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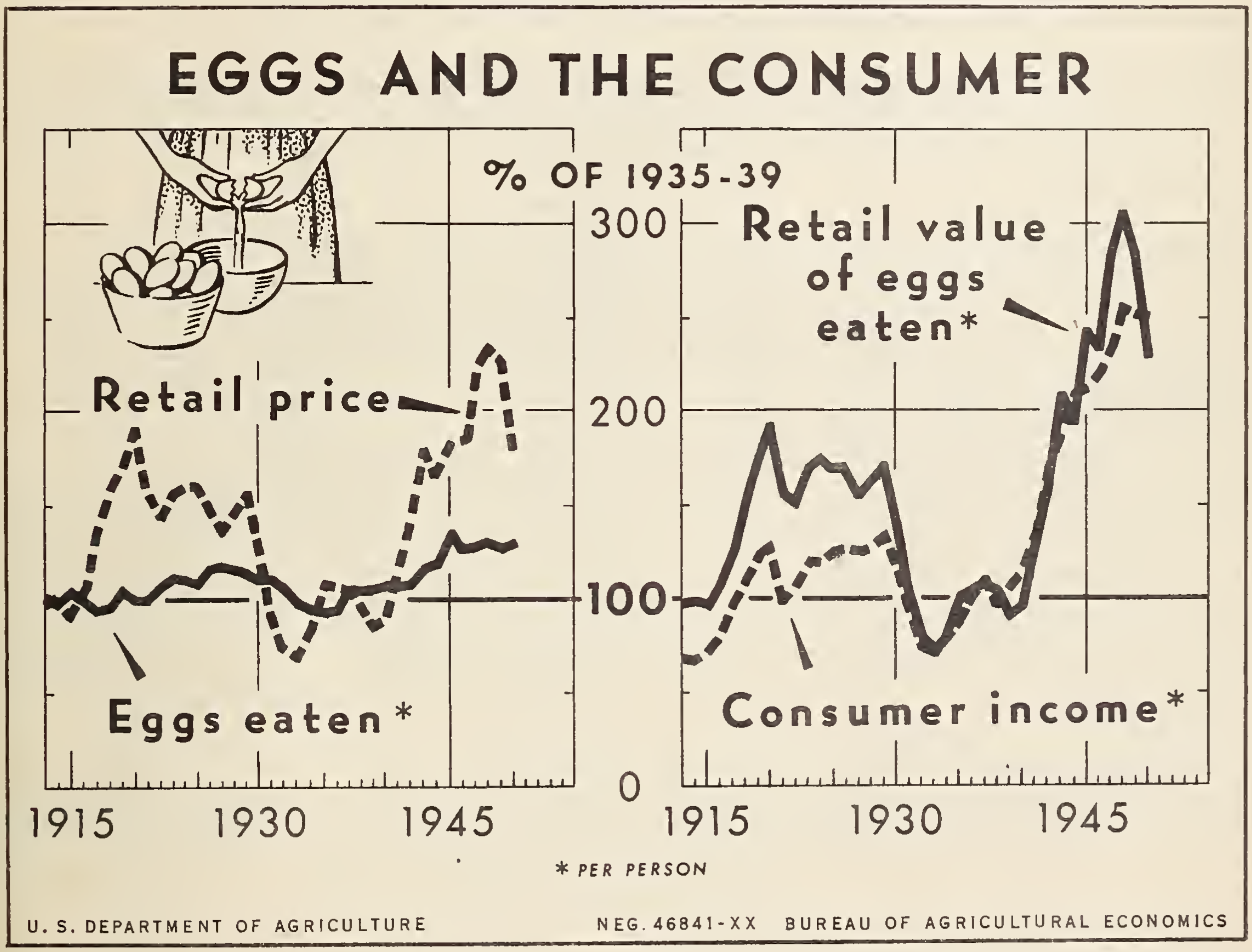
THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES-148 BAE OCT. 1950



EGGS AND THE CONSUMER

* PER PERSON

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 46841-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Supplies will be available in 1951 to provide an average egg consumption at least as high as the 384 eggs per person which are now estimated for 1950. If retail prices of eggs follow the pattern expected for the prices received by farmers, they will be lower in the spring than a year before, but they will be higher in the fall. Consumers' incomes are expected to rise in 1951.

The poultry and egg situation at a glance

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1939-48	1949	1950	Month or date	Average 1939-48	1949	1950	Comments on current situation
		Eggs								
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Aug.	298.9	321.0	351.8	Sept.	260.2	299.8	324.5	Successive monthly records.
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	Aug.	286.9	286.2	303.7	Sept.	302.9	310.3	326.7	
Rate of lay per hen	Eggs	Aug.	12.5	13.5	13.9	Sept.	10.3	11.6	11.9	
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	Eggs	Aug.	28.6	29.1	1/ 31.1	Sept.	27.4	28.2	30.1	Higher than year before, in response to lower retail prices.
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	Aug.	---	7.7	13.4	Sept.	---	5.4	8.4	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	Aug.	---	4.0	5.1	Sept.	---	1.7	3.7	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	Aug.	34.2	48.8	38.0	Sept.	37.2	52.4	40.4	
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Aug.	93	93	72	Sept.	90	94	70	
Retail price (BAE)	Ct. per doz.	Aug.	47.0	70.0	56.1	Sept.	50.8	72.9	58.8	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Aug.	12.3	14.1	10.2	Sept.	13.3	15.2	11.0	
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous. cases	Sept.1	6,305	1,426	2,568	Oct.1	4,933	1,000	1,568	Current out-of-storage movement favorable.
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Sept.1	238.5	146.9	155.4	Oct.1	213.3	121.5	132.5	
Dried	Mil. lb.	Sept.1	---	68.9	109.2	Oct.1	---	69.4	110.7	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	Aug.	37.7	52.1	73.1	Sept.	33.0	54.8	71.4	
Pullets not yet of laying age on farms	Millions	Sept.1	265.9	270.2	240.9	Oct. 1	209.7	189.2	164.8	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol. per cwt.	Aug.	2.82	3.46	3.73	Sept.	2.86	3.46	3.68	
		Poultry								
Price received by farmers for chickens, live	Ct. per lb.	Aug.	22.8	25.1	25.4	Sept.	22.9	24.4	24.5	About the same as a year ago.
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Aug.	116	91	86	Sept.	115	88	83	
Retail price of chickens, dressed (BAE)	Ct. per lb.	Aug.	39.2	54.3	57.4	Sept.	41.1	54.2	56.3	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	Aug.	26.4	33.8	33.8	Sept.	27.4	34.3	33.5	Lower than last year.
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Sept.1	91.1	62.7	67.7	Oct.1	109.8	96.9	96.5	Increasing seasonally.
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Sept.1	21.5	20.8	38.5	Oct.1	19.8	35.5	43.6	
Chicken-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Aug.	8.3	7.3	6.8	Sept.	8.2	7.1	6.7	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Aug.	9.4	9.8	9.1	Sept.	9.6	9.9	9.1	
Average weekly receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant	Thous. lb.	Aug.	26.2	29.5	31.3	Sept.	33.6	35.5	40.4	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 7 broiler areas	Millions	Aug.	---	4.6	7.0	Sept.	---	5.3	7.1	October placements slackening slightly.

1/ Revised.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, October 27, 1950

SUMMARY

Total output of the poultry industry in the United States in 1951 is expected to be slightly lower than the large 1950 production. In 1950, 5 billion dozen eggs will be produced on farms, and 1.2 billion chickens (including commercial broilers) and 45 million turkeys will be raised. Supplies of eggs and poultry for consumers in 1951 probably will exceed the per capita consumption rates of this year, which will be about 384 eggs, 26 pounds of chicken and perhaps 5 pounds of turkey. So far as poultry products are concerned, these large supplies will temper the effects of the prospective increase in consumer demand which will stem from high levels of business activity. Prices are not likely to show as large an increase for eggs, and perhaps poultry, as for most other commodities.

Prospective price increases for the year as a whole will probably raise the 1951 cash receipts from poultry and eggs to a level higher than the $2.6 billions now estimated for 1950, but the receipts are not likely to reach the $3.1 of 1948.

Farmers have kept a record proportion of pullets from the reduced number of young chickens raised in 1950. They can also retain a large number of hens for egg production next year. By January 1, 1951, the number of potential layers will be little less than the 442 million of a year earlier. The number of pullets is larger than might have been expected, in view of the 10 percent fewer birds raised for flock replacement in 1950 compared with 1949. These large numbers, if continued, may lay nearly as many eggs in the first half of 1951 as a year earlier. Supplies for consumers, however, could be larger since in the first half of 1950 the Department of Agriculture bought almost 7 percent of the farm output for price support. No announcement about whether or not there will be price support in 1951 has been made up to October 27. Disappearance of eggs in 1950 will be near 384 eggs per person, an increase of less than 2 percent over 1949, even though retail prices to date are down about 20 percent and consumer incomes are up slightly. The record consumption was 397 eggs under wartime conditions in 1945, and the prewar average was 298 eggs.

With feed prices higher next year, the egg-feed price ratio again will be considerably below average, particularly during the spring hatching season. As a result, the number of chickens raised for flock replacement will be less than in 1950. This will result in fewer farm-raised birds in the 1951 poultry meat supply and possibly fewer layers for 1952 egg production.

Higher meat prices in 1951, along with larger incomes, will tend to bring higher prices for chickens and turkeys. Rising feed prices may not offset all of this prospective price increase, and the result could be a further stimulus to a continued large output of commercial broilers. Storage stocks of chicken at the beginning of 1951 may be larger than a year earlier.

Turkey consumption in 1950 may set a new record of about 5 pounds per person compared with 2-1/2 pounds in 1935-39 and 4.1 pounds in 1949. Civilian per capita consumption may not be as high next year, since military purchases may then be a more important factor, and the current turkey prices may induce a reduction from the record 1950 output.

Table 1.- Eggs and poultry: Production and related factors compared with United States population, 1930-50

Year	Population July 1	Index of population July 1 (1935-39=100)	Index of poultry and egg production (1935-39=100)	Potential layers Jan. 1	Eggs produced on farms	Chickens raised, excluding commercial broilers	Sales and farm consumption of chickens: From farm flocks: Young birds	Mature birds	From specialized broiler production	Total	Turke raise
	Mil.			Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
1930	123.8	95.4	106	420	39,067	777				733	17
1931	124.8	96.1	101	402	38,532	709				660	18
1932	125.6	96.8	99	386	36,298	736				665	22
1933	126.3	97.3	100	391	35,514	750				696	23
1934	127.1	97.9	96	385	34,429	644			34	656	22
1935	128.0	98.6	92	350	33,609	658			43	627	21
1936	128.9	99.3	99	363	34,534	715	389	240	53	682	28
1937	129.6	99.9	101	380	37,564	601	304	263	68	635	26
1938	130.7	100.7	101	353	37,356	651	352	202	82	636	27
1939	131.7	101.5	110	377	38,843	697	384	218	106	708	34
1940	132.8	102.3	112	393	39,695	634	286	284	143	713	34
1941	134.1	103.3	120	381	41,878	745	365	245	192	802	33
1942	135.5	104.4	139	428	48,597	844	412	275	228	915	33
1943	137.4	105.9	162	489	54,539	1,001	526	347	285	1,158	32
1944	138.9	107.0	166	524	58,530	832	387	404	265	1,056	36
1945	140.4	108.2	170	474	55,858	915	441	369	346	1,156	44
1946	142.1	109.5	160	474	55,590	746	322	338	276	986	41
1947	144.9	111.6	157	436	55,252	745	385	289	295	969	35
1948	147.4	113.6	153	426	55,158	637	282	287	356	925	32
1949	150.1	115.6	169	413	56,382	744	369	259	487	1,115	42
1950	1/152.7	1/117.6	1/180	1/442	2/60,000	1/670					1/45

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Estimated.

The American poultry industry in 1950 was at a production level higher than any other year. For peacetime years, this is true even considered relative to the growing population of the United States. The prospective reductions in production for 1951 must be viewed in comparison with the supplies of the recent past, which were so large as to result in surpluses.

OUTLOOK FOR 1951

High Business Activity Expected

The higher levels of general business activity in prospect for 1951 will result in stronger demand for poultry products as well as in higher prices for items needed for production and family living. Increased expenditures for defense will not only lead to higher levels of employment and payrolls but also may reduce the quantity of consumers' goods available.

The necessary diversion of scarce materials such as steel to military uses, and the intended reduction in the volume of residential construction, will make a larger proportion of consumers' incomes available for food purchases. Under these circumstances--barring controls or a more stringent fiscal policy--there will be upward pressure upon prices of commodities which remain available in undiminished quantity, such as foods. A more detailed discussion of the demand outlook and its implications for agricultural prices in general will be found in the Outlook issue of The Demand and Price Situation.

Eggs and poultry are likely to be in such plentiful supply that prices of these items are not likely to rise as much as other food items. For example, in the first 9 months of 1950, consumers bought all the eggs they wished at the prevailing prices and about 6 percent of the eggs produced on farms remained to be absorbed under the Government price support program. If supplies of eggs are as large as expected next spring and summer, they can more than offset the upward price pressures that might materialize in that period. After mid-summer, however, the level of egg prices will depend upon the supply of eggs then available. This supply may be considerably reduced if springtime egg prices are unfavorable to producers.

Because of the possibilities for increased supplies, poultry meat likewise is unlikely to rise in price as much as other foods. Somewhat larger increases in prices of poultry meat could be expected in 1951, however, if red meat prices were appreciably higher than now expected or if rationing of red meat supplies is introduced while poultry remains ration-free. The supply of poultry meat can be greatly increased within a span as short as 4 months through increased broiler production, whereas production of other meats cannot be expanded as rapidly.

Poultrymen's Gross Incomes in 1951 May Increase, but Net Purchasing Power Likely to Lag

Despite the prospect that poultry and egg prices are not likely to increase as much as other food items, the gross income of poultrymen in 1951 is likely to be somewhat higher than in 1950. But the net income will not rise as much as the gross, and the purchasing power of the net income may not rise at all. Increases in costs of almost everything that poultrymen buy will offset the gains that are expected for the year as a whole in the prices of eggs, chickens, and turkeys.

Cash receipts from poultry products in 1950 are likely to be less than in 1949. Below is a comparison of the preliminary estimates of cash receipts for 1950 and the 1949 estimates:

	1949	1950
	(millions of dollars)	
Eggs	1,876	1,420
Farm chickens	506	485
Broilers	417	455
Turkeys	265	250
All poultry and eggs	3,038	2,650

Table 2.- Data on income, employment, production, prices, and food consumption, selected periods, 1940-50

Item	Unit	1940	1941	1942 1st quarter	1942 2nd quarter	1942 3rd quarter	1942 4th quarter	1942 Year	1943 1st quarter	1943 2nd quarter	1943 3rd quarter	1943 4th quarter	1943 Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950 1st quarter	1950 2nd quarter	1950 3rd quarter	1950 Year 1/
Gross national product	Bil. dol.	101.4	126.4	143.3	155.5	166.8	180.6	161.6	183.5	192.8	197.2	203.9	194.3	213.7	215.2	211.1	233.3	259.1	255.6	262.5	269.9	282.0	
Consumer expenditures	Bil. dol.	72.1	82.3	87.1	89.3	92.0	96.2	91.2	98.8	101.7	103.3	105.2	102.2	111.6	123.1	146.9	165.6	177.4	178.8	182.4	184.5	195.0	
Government expenditures for goods and services	Bil. dol.	13.9	24.7	39.2	53.6	68.2	77.9	59.7	85.0	88.5	88.8	92.2	88.6	96.5	82.8	30.9	28.6	36.6	43.3	41.4	41.4	43.0	
Disposable income																							
Total	Bil. dol.	75.7	92.0	103.3	111.7	121.6	130.4	116.7	129.7	134.3	130.9	134.8	132.4	147.0	151.1	158.9	169.5	188.4	187.4	197.7	195.5	202.0	
Per capita	Dollars	570	686	765	826	895	957	862	949	980	951	976	964	1,058	1,076	1,118	1,170	1,278	1,249	1,302	1,283	1,320	
Per capita, deflated by consumers' price index	do.	569	652	676	713	762	799	740	781	786	769	785	780	843	838	803	735	746	739	780	759	759	
Industrial production	1935-39=100	125	162	183	191	203	219	199	231	238	242	245	239	235	203	170	187	192	176	183	193	204	
Labor force	Millions	56.0	57.4	57.2	60.1	61.8	61.9	60.2	61.9	64.8	66.4	64.5	64.4	65.9	65.1	60.8	61.6	62.7	63.6	62.9	64.6	65.6	
Employed	do.	47.9	51.9	53.2	57.3	59.6	60.4	57.6	60.5	63.7	65.4	63.8	63.4	65.3	64.0	58.5	59.4	60.7	60.2	58.5	61.3	62.9	
Military	do.	.4	1.5	2.3	3.2	4.2	5.7	3.8	7.4	8.6	9.5	10.0	8.9	11.3	11.2	3.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	
Civilian	do.	47.5	50.4	50.9	54.1	55.4	54.7	53.8	53.2	55.1	55.9	53.8	54.5	54.0	52.8	55.2	58.0	59.4	58.7	57.1	60.0	61.6	
Nonagricultural	do.	38.0	41.2	43.1	44.0	45.3	45.7	44.5	45.4	45.1	45.6	45.4	45.4	45.0	44.2	46.9	49.8	51.4	50.7	50.7	51.9	53.5	
Agricultural	do.	9.5	9.1	7.8	10.1	10.1	9.0	9.2	7.8	9.9	10.3	8.4	9.1	9.0	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.0	8.0	6.4	8.1	8.1	
Unemployed	do.	8.1	5.6	4.0	2.8	2.2	1.6	2.7	1.3	1.1	1.1	.7	1.1	.7	1.0	2.3	2.1	2.0	3.4	4.4	3.3	2.7	
Consumers' price (urban)																							
Total	1935-39=100	100.2	105.2	113.1	115.8	117.4	119.7	116.5	121.5	124.7	123.7	124.3	123.6	125.5	128.4	139.3	159.2	171.2	169.1	167.0	169.0	174.0	
Food	1935-39=100	96.6	105.5	117.2	121.5	125.8	131.1	123.9	134.7	141.8	137.9	137.5	138.0	136.1	139.1	159.6	193.8	210.2	201.9	196.0	201.0	210.0	
Nonfood	1935-39=100	101.9	105.0	111.0	113.0	113.0	113.5	112.6	114.2	115.1	116.0	117.3	115.6	120.0	122.8	128.0	139.7	149.4	150.6	151.0	151.0	153.0	
Civilian consumption of food per person	1935-39=100	106	109					109					109	112	114	119	115	111	2/111				2/111
Volume of farm marketings	1935-39=100	112	116					127					135	139	140	141	146	142	151				143
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	100	123	149	153	160	171	158	185	194	191	196	192	196	206	234	275	285	249	236	245	267	
Prices paid, interest, taxes and wages	1910-14=100	124	132	145	150	153	158	152	164	170	172	175	170	182	189	207	240	259	250	249	253	258	
Parity price ratio	1910-14=100	81	93	103	102	104	108	104	113	114	111	111	113	108	109	113	115	110	100	95	97	104	
Cash receipts from farm marketings	Bil. dol.	8.4	11.2					15.4					19.4	20.4	21.5	24.9	30.0	30.5	28.1				27.6
Realized net income of farm operators (excluding Government payments)	Bil. dol.	3.9	5.9					8.5					11.5	11.8	12.1	14.3	17.5	16.3	14.0				13.0

All data from Bureau of Agricultural Economics except the following: Gross national product, consumer expenditures, Government expenditures for goods and services, and disposable income (total), from U. S. Department of Commerce. Labor force, Bureau of the Census. Index of industrial production, Federal Reserve Board. Consumers' price index, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Quarterly data for first 7 series listed were adjusted to annual-rate basis.

1/ Estimates of Bureau of Agricultural Economics.
2/ As of July 1950.

Current Egg and Poultry Prices Below Minimums at Which Ceilings Might Apply

Present and prospective egg and poultry prices are substantially below the minimum level at which price ceilings are permissive under the terms of the Defense Production Act of 1950. The Act is effective through June 1951.

In the legislation governing the conditions of possible price controls, three levels are set up with respect to agricultural commodities. Controls may not be imposed at prices lower than those equivalent to the highest of the three levels. In the case of poultry and eggs, the parity price would be the effective minimum level if the provisions of the Act were to be invoked.

In mid-September, prices of eggs, seasonally adjusted, were only 70 percent of parity. Therefore, from that base, the price of eggs (seasonally adjusted) would have to increase 43 percent more than the concurrent rise in the index of prices paid by farmers before ceilings could be imposed. This applies through 1950; beginning January 1, 1951, a new, lower, stage of transitional parity applies to eggs, and, since the parity price will be reduced by 5 percent on this account, a somewhat smaller egg price increase would suffice to bring egg prices within the range at which ceilings could be applied. The possibilities are remote, however, for even an increase to the level of the 1951 parity, before the expiration of the present Act.

The mid-September prices of chickens and turkeys were, respectively, 83 and 90 percent of parity. For those prices to rise to the minimum at which ceilings might be set, respective increases of 20 and 11 percent would be necessary within the remaining period covered by the Act. These increases would have to be beyond the concurrent increase in the index of prices paid, including interest, taxes, and wage rates.

Price Supports Uncertain

No announcement about whether or not there will be price support in 1951 for eggs or poultry had been made up to October 27. The applicable legislation defines eggs, chickens, and turkeys as non-basic, non-mandatory commodities, for which support is discretionary with the Secretary of Agriculture at any level between 0 and 90 percent of parity. In deciding upon supports for non-mandatory commodities, however, the legislation lists 8 criteria to be included among the Secretary's considerations. These are:

(1) The supply of the commodity in relation to the demand therefore,
(2) The price levels at which other commodities are being supported,
(3) The availability of funds,
(4) The perishability of the commodity,
(5) The importance of the commodity to agriculture and the national economy,
(6) The ability to dispose of stocks acquired through a price-support operation.
(7) The need for offsetting temporary losses of export markets, and
(8) The ability and willingness of producers to keep supplies in line with demand.

Plentiful Feed Supplies but Higher Prices Seen for 1951

Large carry-overs from last year's feed-grain harvest, plus another large corn crop this year, assure poultrymen and other livestock producers of near-record feed-grain supplies. The higher prices that are likely for grains and related products, however, will probably bring poultry ration costs in 1951 to a somewhat higher level than in 1950.

Both in total and relative to prospective numbers of livestock to be fed, supplies of feed grain for the feeding year October 1950-September 1951 are a near-record. But loan rates are generally higher than a year ago, and market prices this fall are not expected to decline as far under the loan rate as they did in 1949-50. The national average loan rate for corn is 7 cents per bushel higher than last year. Until soft and chaffy corn is fed out and other corn outside of loan is absorbed, prices of corn may continue under loan levels. However, this situation is likely to change as the coming feeding year progresses.

Supplies of byproduct feeds from wheat flour milling will continue fairly plentiful, although slightly less so than last year. The volume of these feeds available for feeding is in proportion to the activity of domestic flour mills rather than in proportion to the size of the U. S. wheat stocks. Prices of mill feeds will reflect changes in corn prices, since their prices are affected to some extent by competition from corn and other grains.

Compared with last year, most protein feeds used to balance poultry rations are now selling at relatively lower prices than grain. This relationship is expected to continue through most of 1951, although the price of protein may advance some during the year, together with grains. Corn prices in Chicago in September were 17 percent higher than a year earlier. At the same time meat scraps were only 8 percent higher than a year earlier. The price of soybean meal was 21 percent below a year earlier and the price of fish meal was 17 percent lower. Prospective supplies of soybean meal for the coming feeding year are one-sixth larger and about offset the decrease in supplies of other oilseed cakes and meals. The total tonnage of animal protein feeds in the feeding year 1950-51 will be about the same as in 1949-50.

Egg Production Early in 1951 to be Near This Year's Level; Fall, Winter Supplies in 1951 to Depend Partly On Springtime Prices

Egg production early in 1951 is not likely to be much different from 1950. The number of potential layers 1/ on farms on January 1, 1951 will be slightly smaller than a year earlier, and the rate of lay for the first 6 months of 1950 may average out about the same as this year. By the second half of the year, however, egg production will reflect the level of returns during the early part of the year, and the outlook at that time.

1/ Including hens and pullets already of laying age; as used in this report, potential layers are the total of hens, pullets of laying age, and pullets not yet of laying age.

Table 3.- Prices of feed grains and specified byproduct feeds, wholesale, September 1950 with comparisons 1/

Feed	Market	Unit	Calendar year 1945 2/	Year beginning October: Average 1937-41	Year beginning October: 1948	Year beginning October: 1949	September: 1949	September: 1950
			Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Grains								
Corn, No. 3 Yellow	Chicago	Bushel	1.168	.631	1.368	1.380	1.312	1.541
Oats, No. 3 White	Chicago	Bushel	.714	.375	.742	.808	.678	.816
Barley, No. 3	Minneapolis	Bushel	1.223	.562	1.295	1.511	1.455	1.451
Milo maize, No. 2 Yellow	Kansas City	100 pounds	3/2.297	1.068	2.358	2.176	2.115	2.150
Byproduct feeds								
Bran, standard	Minneapolis	Ton	37.75	22.10	47.55	45.50	40.75	45.25
Middlings, standard	Minneapolis	Ton	37.75	22.85	49.05	48.10	45.40	47.40
Hominy feed, white	Chicago	Ton	47.85	24.90	47.90	50.80	45.80	55.65
Soybean meal, 44 percent	Chicago	Ton	52.00	31.00	76.40	74.60	83.15	65.85
Cottonseed meal, 41 percent	Memphis	Ton	48.60	27.45	63.10	64.80	57.75	71.90
Linseed meal, 36 percent	Minneapolis	Ton	45.50	34.75	67.25	69.30	62.40	62.50
Peanut meal, 45 percent	S.E. milling points	Ton	53.00	28.50	65.50	68.30	70.00	70.00
Tankage, 60 percent, digester	Chicago	Ton	74.55	55.11	120.65	118.05	130.10	126.05
Meat scraps, 50 percent	Chicago	Ton	73.50	52.90	116.55	113.05	114.75	124.20
Fish meal, 67 percent	San Fran.	Ton	79.50	54.55	193.45	156.20	170.00	141.55
Gluten feed, 23 percent	Chicago	Ton	41.25	23.10	53.80	51.90	51.75	48.50
Distillers' dried grains	Cincinnati	Ton	41.35	29.20	68.30	63.35	67.50	50.25
Brewers' dried grains	Milwaukee	Ton	37.00	22.60	51.35	48.10	41.50	43.50

1/ Yearly prices are simple averages of monthly prices.
2/ Price controls were in effect. Prices of most feeds were at the ceilings during most of 1945.
3/ 11-month average.

On October 1, 1950, the number of potential layers was down 2 percent from a year earlier. However, if the various categories of birds comprising potential layers--hens, laying pullets, and pullets not yet of laying age-- are viewed separately and an extension be made of their present numbers to January 1 levels, a decrease of less than 2 percent from last year is indicated (table 4). This possibility is particularly apparent if the birds reported as "other" young chickens on October 1, 1/ are assumed to be the predecessors of the January 1 pullets not yet of laying age, since the two series are fairly closely related. This type of association is particularly important in anticipating 1951 numbers because, although the number of pullets from late 1950 hatchings to be added to 1951 laying flocks is relatively small, a growing trend toward the off-season brooding of pullets is apparent. Chickens of this later type are not likely to show up in numbers of layers until sometime after January 1.

The current analysis leads to the expectation of a somewhat larger January 1, 1951 flock than had been expected earlier. A 10 percent decrease from the year before in the number of chickens raised, such as occurred in 1950, usually is followed by a reduction of about half that size in the number of pullets at the beginning of the following year. The earlier expectation of a 5 percent reduction in numbers on January 1, 1951, was based on normal rates of attrition among both young chickens and laying birds. But this year the average number of layers in each of the fall months was well maintained in comparison with the January 1 numbers. For example, on October 1, 1950 the number of layers on hand was 85 percent of the number the preceding January. The corresponding percentage in 1949 was 87 percent and the 10-year average was only 82 percent.

If past increases in the annual rate of lay continue, and if recent relationships between numbers of layers on January 1 and through the year continue, the indicated reduction in the January 1 number of layers will be very largely offset by an increased number of eggs per layer. This increase will stem most largely from increases in the output per bird in January and February, and again, after the spring flush, in the months after August. Therefore its achievement depends partly upon the maintenance of numbers of layers throughout the year. Over the past 15 years there has been an average increase of almost 3 eggs per year in the annual output per potential layer on hand January 1. If the gain in 1951 conforms to the average experience, and thereby shows an increase of 3 eggs (2 percent) over 1950, the increase may practically offset the possible reduction in the number of layers.

An analysis of the increases in rate of lay has shown that they are most apt to occur in fall and winter, while the output per bird in the spring months of heaviest production has tended to hold at a fairly uniform rate. This has avoided aggravation of the seasonalegg surplus problem, since it means that the increases in output per bird have not contributed to the springtime surpluses of past years, except to the extent that fall and winter increases in rate of lay reduced the need for accumulation of storage reserves from springtime production.

1/ Young chickens other than birds already enumerated as pullets.

Table 4.- Chickens: Numbers on farms, selected classes, on October 1 and January 1 following, 1940 to date, with comparisons relevant to the prediction of numbers of potential layers, January 1, 1951

Item	Unit	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
1. Hens 1 year or older, October 1 ...	Mil. birds	158.3	165.8	182.6	227.8	228.9	213.0	202.6	200.9	195.8	188.4	198.4
2. Hens 1 year or older, January 1 following ...	Mil. birds	141.4	150.2	170.3	174.0	172.4	149.5	150.4	141.1	144.8	142.2	
3. Hens January 1 following as a percentage of October 1 ...	Percent	89	91	93	76	75	70	74	70	74	75	
4. Pullets, total, October 1 ...	Mil. birds	292.3	328.0	363.5	393.0	346.7	369.4	325.5	331.5	305.2	332.2	312.1
5. (a) Laying age ...	Mil. birds	112.2	122.6	137.0	124.4	134.4	127.8	125.9	133.4	126.6	143.0	147.3
6. (b) Not yet of laying age ...	Mil. birds	180.1	205.4	226.5	268.6	212.3	241.6	199.6	198.1	178.6	189.2	164.8
7. Pullets, total, January 1 following	Mil. birds	239.9	277.7	318.6	349.6	301.5	324.7	285.3	285.3	268.2	300.0	
8. (a) Laying age ...	Mil. birds	192.3	220.8	255.3	282.2	254.5	271.2	248.1	250.3	235.7	265.9	
9. (b) Not yet of laying age ...	Mil. birds	47.6	56.9	63.3	67.4	47.0	53.5	37.2	35.1	32.5	34.1	
10. Laying pullets January 1 following as a percentage of total pullets, October 1 ...	Percent	66	67	70	72	73	73	76	76	77	80	
11. Other young chickens 1/, October 1	Mil. birds	98.1	113.1	114.8	151.0	100.4	136.8	87.2	87.6	71.4	76.2	79.0
12. Pullets not yet of laying age January 1 following, as a percentage of other young chickens 1/ October 1 ...	Percent	49	50	55	45	47	39	43	40	46	45	
13. Potential layers, 2/ October 1 ...	Mil. birds	450.6	493.8	546.1	620.8	575.6	582.4	528.0	532.4	501.0	520.5	510.5
14. Potential layers, 2/ January 1 following ...	Mil. birds	381.3	427.9	489.0	523.6	473.9	474.2	435.7	426.5	413.0	442.2	
15. Potential layers 2/ January 1 following as a percentage of October 1 ...	Percent	85	87	90	84	82	81	83	80	82	85	
16. Potential layers 2/ October 1 as a percentage of preceding Oct. 1	Percent	99	110	111	114	93	101	91	101	94	104	98
17. Layers 3/ January 1 following as a percentage of layers January 1 of given year ...	Percent	98	111	115	107	94	99	95	98	97	107	
18. Potential layers 2/ January 1 as a percentage of potential layers January 1 of given year ...	Percent	97	112	114	107	91	100	92	98	97	107	

1/ Other than laying pullets and pullets not yet of laying age.
2/ The total of layers (both hens and pullets), and pullets not yet of laying age.
3/ Hens and pullets of laying age

The extent to which farmers find their springtime egg prices satisfactory will influence the number of chickens raised for farm flock replacement in 1951. This will affect egg supply in the last few months of the year. In addition, the level of egg prices in the spring and summer will be a factor influencing farmers' decisions regarding the severity of culling, and also whether or not to keep hens for a second laying year. If the considerations influencing farmers' decisions on these points are favorable, the numbers of layers on farms through each of the months of 1951 could be almost as large as in 1950. The increased rate of lay in the fall and winter months would also be a factor in maintaining a total egg production for the year almost as large as in 1950.

On the other hand, if springtime egg prices should prove disappointing to farmers, the subsequent numbers of layers might be reduced, as discussed above. In this event, depending of course upon the extent of price declines, total egg production in the last 5 or 6 months of 1951 might be as much as 5 percent lower than in the same period of 1950.

Egg Prices and Seasonal Trends in 1951 To Depend in Part Upon Level of Supports Supports If Any

Springtime egg price levels in 1951 depend greatly upon whether egg prices will be supported next year. Through the first 10 months of 1950, 82 million pounds of dried eggs were bought for price support purposes by the Department of Agriculture. Through October 27, no announcement had been made by the Department as to whether or not there will be a price support program for eggs in 1951.

If price support in 1951 is at a level near that of 1950, egg prices in the first few months of the year probably will be close to the floor, as they were this past year. Even with unchanged egg prices, however, the number of chickens raised by farmers next year may decline from the 1950 level, since feed prides are likely to rise in coming months. This would result in a less favorable egg-feed price ratio. Despite the somewhat smaller number of springtime layers, and fewer pullets raised, egg production in the second half of 1951 might be nearly as great as in the comparable period of 1950. This would follow from the probable further increase in the fall rate of lay. For the year as a whole, egg supplies probably will continue in excess of recent consumption rates. Thus, it is possible that if the Department of Agriculture seeks to support prices it might find that large-scale activities would be necessary to accomplish this end.

If there is no price support in 1951, or if the level of support is greatly reduced, prices will decline sharply. The decline might begin as early as mid-December, and prices would remain low until a substantial into-storage movement has begun for both shell and frozen eggs, perhaps in February. If the into-storage movement subsided before the period of flush springtime supplies had come to an end, prices would again become depressed. Expanded purchases for military use would supplement storage as a price-bolstering factor.

With the price situation that might develop in the absence of supports, there would be an even greater decline in the number of chickens raised in 1951 than would occur under supported egg prices. In this event, there would be a correspondingly larger decline from the 1950 levels of fall egg supply, exceeding the slight change that would be indicated if springtime egg prices had been supported. Under the most drastic circumstances, this decline in fall egg production might run as much as 5 percent. A decline of this magnitude would bolster fall egg prices, particularly under the double impact of the increased consumer incomes that are expected by that season, and the fact that per capita egg consumption in the fall is normally so low that a greater degree of price elasticity prevails. Therefore, even under conditions of no price support, the lower springtime prices may be more than offset by higher prices in the fall, resulting in a higher annual average egg price than in 1950.

Table 5. - Eggs: Disposition and price of farm production, January-June 1950

Month	Production on farms, cases	Net movement to storage; case equivalent: Shell	Frozen	Total	Purchases by USDA, case equivalent 1/	Balance available for consumption outlets, including military, exports, and hatching, cases	Farm price, per dozen
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Cents
1950							
January	14,297	270	31	301	307	13,689	31.3
February	14,492	355	483	838	610	13,044	29.6
March	17,858	561	1,157	1,718	701	15,439	31.6
April	17,739	851	1,028	1,879	1,640	14,220	30.8
May	17,061	1,266	657	1,923	1,751	13,387	29.6
June	14,356	254	233	487	1,494	12,375	30.1
January-June total	95,803	3,557	3,589	7,146	6,503	82,154	

1/ By months in which contracts were written; not by delivery months.

Storage of Shell Eggs to be Influenced by Prospective Fall Supplies; More Chickens, Fewer Turkeys, Expected in Frozen Stocks

Before the flush production of the spring is past there will be definite indications as to the probable extent of the decline in fall egg production. The indications will be through the numbers of chicks hatched, and through the size of the reduction in numbers of layers in the egg-producing flocks. In the event of a substantial reduction, more shell eggs would be stored than this year, and storage stocks might approach the 5-1/2 million cases of eggs stored in 1948. In 1949 only 2 million cases were stored, and only 3-1/2 millions in 1950.

The quantities of frozen eggs stored have not shown as wide year-to-year fluctuations as have shell eggs, and the quantities of frozen stored for civilian use have generally tended upward. An extension of this trend is likely, and peak-season (July 1 or August 1) stocks may accordingly be somewhat larger than in 1950. The 1950 peak of 188 million pounds was an increase of only 12 percent from 1949, while shell egg stocks meanwhile rose 60 percent. This stability in the quantity of frozen eggs stored was also shown in 1949, when frozen stocks at their peak were 37 percent lower than the preceding year, while shell stocks were 60 percent lower.

Stocks of frozen chickens at the beginning of 1951 are likely to be larger than the year before, but turkey holdings may be smaller. At the beginning of October, holdings of turkey were above a year ago, while holdings of chicken were about the same as a year before. The expectation for larger chicken stocks is based on the following considerations: (a) the usual into-storage movement which has already begun is adding to stocks which are larger than last year, and (b) no particular nervousness seems to exist with respect to the general level of prices for those classes of chickens which are subject to a seasonal marketing pattern and which are among the most important classes stored. The first consideration applies also to turkeys, but not the second. Since there is now no turkey price support, which last year provided a large degree of price insurance for stored turkey, storage stocks this winter may not be as large as a year ago.

The prospects for a generally rising price level for most commodities will tend to encourage storage of poultry and eggs, as well as other commodities. This consideration, in addition to the elements specifically related to supplies and prices of the commodities in question, is likely to be a factor influencing storage trends in 1951.

Number of Chickens Raised in 1951 Likely to Decline; Adequate Egg Supplies Can Be Furnished by Smaller Number of Layers

In the past, annual changes in the numbers of chickens raised for farm flock replacements have been closely related to poultrymen's returns during the hatching season and in the months immediately preceding. The egg-feed price ratio is a simple indicator of relative returns to the egg producer. On the basis of the past relation between the egg-feed price ratio and poultrymen's responses, if egg prices next spring are lower, chick placements on farms next spring are likely also to be smaller.

Table 6.- Cold-storage holdings: Turkeys, chickens, and shell and frozen eggs at season peaks, 1930-50

Year	Turkeys of previous year's crop 1/	Chickens of previous year's crop 2/ 3/	Eggs		
			Shell 4/	Frozen 4/	Total, as case equivalent, 5/ 6/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Thousand cases	Million pounds	Thousand cases
1930	7/ 14	131	8/ 11,198	8/ 116	14,428
1931	7/ 9	100	9,507	8/ 115	12,649
1932	14	106	8/ 6,431	100	9,184
1933	17	93	8/ 9,507	8/ 108	12,457
1934	20	103	9,965	8/ 122	12,251
1935	24	110	8/ 7,947	8/ 116	11,090
1936	21	87	8/ 7,335	8/ 115	10,456
1937	41	148	8/ 8,718	8/ 167	13,168
1938	28	92	8/ 6,411	139	10,105
1939	28	110	8/ 7,024	8/ 144	10,874
1940	65	109	8/ 7,784	8/ 155	11,916
1941	65	140	8/ 6,641	8/ 195	11,844
1942	60	161	7,935	8/ 291	15,682
1943	38	149	8,871	8/ 351	18,236
1944	48	9/ 189	11,355	8/ 389	21,716
1945	74	193	6,120	256	12,945
1946	7/135	244	9,871	265	16,939
1947	140	184	8/ 4,268	8/ 242	10,710
1948	83	225	5,669	267	12,782
1949	55	107	2,290	8/ 168	6,781
1950	138	161	3,667	188	8,693

1/ Season peak February 1 unless otherwise indicated.
2/ Total poultry excluding turkeys and ducks.
3/ Season peak January 1 unless otherwise indicated.
4/ July 1 season peak unless otherwise indicated.
5/ Beginning with January 1937, the conversion factor for frozen eggs to shell egg equivalent has been 37-1/2 pounds equal 1 case. Prior to that date, yields were lower and a variable conversion was employed to reflect the yields than prevalent.
6/ Total of respective season peaks for frozen and shell, not necessarily occurring concurrently.
7/ Season peak March 1.
8/ Season peak August 1.
9/ Season peak February 1.

Illustrative data on this point are shown in tables 7 and 8. Although the associations are not precise, they are remarkably consistent. There has been only one year since 1925 in which the number of chickens raised did not show its usual response to the change in the ratio. In every year since 1930 the January 1 numbers of pullets has changed in the same direction as the number of chickens raised the year before. The general relationships noted in years of moderate change are as follows: (a) each 2 percent change in the egg-feed price ratio (as weighted in the table), is followed by about a 1 percent change in numbers of chickens raised, (b) each 2 percent change in the number of chickens raised is followed by about a 1 percent change in numbers of pullets the following January 1. These relations are not precise, and they do not necessarily hold for years when large-scale adjustments are called for, but they have been guides in the past.

In mid-September the egg-feed price ratio, at 11.0 pounds, was 28 percent below the level of 15.2 pounds a year earlier. The monthly ratios for the rest of 1950 may not stand in so adverse a relationship to the ratios of the corresponding months of 1949, but they are not likely to attain last year's marks.

For the early months of 1951, the feed component of the egg-feed price ratio is likely to continue higher than a year earlier. The 1951 springtime egg prices are not likely to average higher than they were in 1950. In the first 6 months of 1950 the egg-feed price ratios averaged 8.8 pounds, against a 10-year average of 11.2 pounds for the corresponding months.

The profit outlook for poultrymen, in whatever form it develops as the season progresses, will affect future egg supplies. Not only will poultrymen's reactions regarding culling rates and the retention of hens affect production in the fairly immediate future, but egg supply in the more distant period will also be affected.

The conditions of demand beyond 1951 are too hazy to permit specific statements regarding the egg production that might be required then. But if conditions then can be represented by a mere extension of the conditions of 1950, a 4 or 5 percent reduction in egg production per capita might reduce the gap that has hitherto existed between per capita production and per capita consumption. Such an adjustment, under stable conditions of demand, and stable prices for foods to which eggs are an alternative, would help egg supplies to clear the market without the need for Government purchases, and yet would not reduce per capita consumption from the current high levels.

Supplies of Chicken Meat, Including Broilers, Will Respond to 1951 Prices

The three principal components of the supply of chicken meat in 1951, in the order of relative quantities provided by each, will be broilers, mature chickens from farm production, and young chickens produced on farms. Of these three, the supplies of farm-produced mature birds (principally hens) are the least subject to change. Available quantities of the other two types will be considerably influenced by the price prospects that materialize as the season progresses.

Table 7.- Egg-feed price ratio, chickens raised, and pullets on farms, United States, 1925 to date

Year	Egg-feed price ratio* (weighted average)	Chickens raised	Pullets on farms: January 1 following	Percentage of preceding year: Egg-feed price ratio	Percentage of preceding year: Chickens raised	Percentage of preceding year: Pullets on farms January 1 following
	Pounds	Millions	Millions	Percent	Percent	Percent
1925	12.9	679		102	103	
1926	13.5	718		105	106	
1927	13.4	750		99	104	
1928	12.2	700		91	93	
1929	13.1	751		107	107	
1930	13.8	777	244	105	104	
1931	10.6	709	230	77	91	94
1932	11.6	736	237	109	104	103
1933	14.3	750	238	123	102	100
1934	10.9	644	212	76	86	89
1935	11.4	658	226	105	102	107
1936	13.1	715	249	115	109	110
1937	9.4	601	215	72	84	86
1938	11.4	651	242	121	108	113
1939	12.6	697	254	111	107	105
1940	10.4	634	240	83	91	94
1941	11.5	745	278	111	118	116
1942	13.2	844	319	115	113	115
1943	14.7	1,001	350	111	119	110
1944	11.2	832	301	76	83	86
1945	12.8	915	325	114	110	108
1946	11.9	746	285	93	82	88
1947	11.3	745	285	95	100	100
1948	9.8	637	268	87	86	94
1949	12.7	744	300	130	117	112
1950	9.6	1/ 670		76	1/ 90	

1/ Preliminary.
*Weights are as follows: Preceding November, 1; preceding December, 2: January, 3; February, 4; March, 5; April, 3; May, 1.

Table 8.- Egg-feed price ratios, and chickens raised by regions, 1941 to date

Year	New England: Egg-feed price ratio*	New England: Chickens raised	Middle Atlantic: Egg-feed price ratio*	Middle Atlantic: Chickens raised	East North Central: Egg-feed price ratio*	East North Central: Chickens raised
	Pounds	Millions	Pounds	Millions	Pounds	Millions
1941	11.6	23	11.6	62	10.1	143
1942	13.1	28	13.7	72	12.8	156
1943	15.2	34	15.4	94	14.4	184
1944	11.2	31	11.2	80	11.0	154
1945	13.7	34	13.8	91	12.5	176
1946	11.9	22	12.0	70	11.6	143
1947	13.0	25	12.5	71	10.9	141
1948	11.3	23	11.2	65	9.5	117
1949	14.1	28	13.9	80	12.4	141
1950	10.6	1/27	11.0	1/73	9.2	1/130
	West North Central		South Atlantic		East South Central	
1941	10.8	211	9.6	84	9.0	67
1942	13.9	246	11.6	91	11.6	78
1943	15.3	286	12.8	108	12.6	89
1944	11.8	239	10.2	93	10.2	73
1945	12.9	259	11.7	94	11.4	76
1946	12.1	215	11.2	81	11.3	70
1947	11.0	216	11.0	77	10.6	67
1948	8.8	163	10.1	72	9.5	63
1949	12.5	195	12.0	76	12.0	68
1950	9.2	1/175	9.7	1/68	9.4	1/58
	West South Central		Mountain		Pacific	
1941	9.6	90	11.0	23	11.6	42
1942	12.7	101	13.5	27	12.8	45
1943	13.6	120	15.2	33	15.4	53
1944	10.8	94	12.1	26	11.8	42
1945	12.0	104	13.6	30	13.6	51
1946	11.2	84	12.9	23	12.0	38
1947	10.7	83	11.7	24	12.2	41
1948	9.5	72	10.7	22	10.6	40
1949	12.0	85	13.2	25	12.7	46
1950	9.2	1/74	9.9	1/22	9.5	1/43

1/ Preliminary.
*Weighted average of monthly ratios as follows: Preceding November, 1; preceding December, 2; January, 3; February, 4; March, 5; April, 3; May, 1; except for the year 1941 which is based on the months January to May only.

The marketings of mature farm chickens in 1951 will be roughly governed by the number of potential layers on farms the first of January. If, as previously indicated, the number on farms is within 2 percent of the corresponding figure a year earlier, a similar change in the 1951 marketings of mature chickens could be expected. Favorable egg prices may defer the marketing of layers to a later-than-normal period of the year, while unfavorable egg prices might accelerate their marketing. However, the quantity to be sold cannot be substantially altered except by changes in death losses or in the carry-over of mature chickens to the following laying year. Both of these factors have been quite stable in recent years.

The quantity of young chickens sold from farms will depend on the number raised in the spring of 1951. Since the egg-feed ratio is expected to be less favorable than in the spring of 1950, the number raised will probably also be smaller. If this should occur, the quantity of poultry meat from young birds, excluding broilers from specialized enterprises, will be lower than it was in 1950.

The supply of broilers from specialized enterprises, which will provide a larger proportion of chicken meat in 1950 than will any other class of poultry, will vary with the economic outlook in 1951. Output of broilers has increased at an average annual rate of about 20 percent over the past 16 years. Production in 1950 will be about one-sixth larger than the year before. The output of this industry can be changed rapidly whenever economic considerations warrant. Even though current feed-price relationships are not a good indicator of the relationships which may prevail when a particular lot of broilers will be marketed, the broiler feed-price ratio at the time hatching eggs are set or chicks ordered seems to be an important factor determining the scale of operation. This being the case, sharp price changes are likely to be followed by changes in market supplies about 3 or 4 months later. Broiler prices during October have been sharply lower than in the several months previous, and placements are declining. Therefore, broiler production and sales will slacken during the first quarter of 1951. For the year as a whole, however, there is no reason to expect lower broiler production than in 1950, and if red meat prices are high, the industry may continue to expand almost at its 1950 rate.

Turkey Production Next Year to Depend Partly on Outcome of 1950 Marketings

Like the broiler industry, the turkey industry has shown a remarkable growth over the period in which records are available. The momentum of this expansion--presumably based on continued favorable returns to producers--may partly offset the somewhat lower returns expected from the 1950 crop. However, the September turkey-feed price ratio showed a smaller percentage decrease from a year ago than did the egg-feed price ratio. If the turkey-feed ratio continues no less favorable for the next few months, turkey production might be expected to hold up moderately well in 1951.

Regardless of whether turkey output as a whole holds its own or contracts, two trends which became apparent this year are likely to continue. The first is toward a reduction in the number of birds raised in the Mountain and Pacific Coast regions, and an increase in the proportion of turkeys raised in the Midwest. The second is the move toward lighter-weight birds, some being of the Beltsville Small White breed which is ready for marketing at 15 pounds for the toms and 9 pounds for young hens. As a part of this trend, sales of young turkeys may also increase.

In the past, turkey prices have shown greater year-to-year fluctuations than have chicken prices. To a considerable extent, these fluctuations have been associated with turkey supply. Thus, turkey prices this winter will have considerable effect on next year's production and, consequently on prices for the 1951 crop. The earliest indications regarding the industry's 1951 plans will be (a) producers' intentions to buy poults, reported in January, and (b), the number of breeder hens on farms January 1, to be reported in mid-February. In some recent years the latter has provided a reliable indicator as to whether farmers' intentions would be realized.

Table 9. - Turkey-feed price ratio and turkeys raised, 1930 to date

Year	Turkey feed price ratio 1/	Turkeys raised	Change from preceding year			
			Turkey-feed price ratio 1/		Turkeys raised 2/	
	Pounds	Millions	Pounds	Percent	Millions	Percent
1931	10.7	18				
1932	14.6	22	+ 3.9	+ 36	+ 4	+ 22
1933	11.7	23	- 2.9	- 20	+ 1	+ 4
1934	8.0	22	- 3.7	- 22	- 2	- 7
1935	7.6	21	- 0.4	- 5	- 1	- 4
1936	12.2	28	+ 4.6	+ 61	+ 7	+ 34
1937	6.6	26	- 5.6	- 46	- 2	- 8
1938	10.7	27	+ 4.1	+ 62	+ 1	+ 4
1939	12.5	34	+ 1.8	+ 17	+ 7	+ 25
1940	9.4	34	- 3.1	- 25	3/	+ 1
1941	9.4	33	0	0	- 1	- 3
1942	10.1	33	+ 0.7	+ 7	3/	0
1943	12.4	32	+ 2.3	+ 23	3/	- 2
1944	11.3	36	- 1.1	- 9	+ 3	+ 10
1945	11.9	44	+ 0.6	+ 5	+ 9	+ 24
1946	11.1	41	- 0.8	- 7	- 3	- 8
1947	10.2	35	- .9	- 8	- 6	- 14
1948	7.7	32	- 2.5	- 25	- 3	- 9
1949	13.1	42	+ 5.4	+ 70	+10	+ 32
1950	10.2	4/ 45	- 2.9	- 22	+ 2	+ 6

1/ Weighted average of monthly ratios as follows: 1930-1944, preceding October, 1; preceding November, 4; preceding December, 4; January, 1. 1945 to date, preceding October, 2; preceding November, 4; preceding December, 3; January, 1.

2/ Computed from unrounded data.

3/ Less than 1 million.

4/ Preliminary.

Cold storage of turkey from the 1949 crop reached a peak of 138 million pounds on February 1, 1950. Higher holdings had been reported on the corresponding date one earlier year, but the holdings from the 1949 crop were nevertheless 20 percent of the total crop. They were induced in part by a Federal price-support program which in effect provided price insurance for turkeys stored under certain conditions. Turkeys thus stored, but which remained unsold after July 1, 1950, were eligible for price support. No such price assurance will exist with respect to the 1950 crop, and therefore peak storage holdings could be smaller than last year. Since the peak in the 1950-51 year will be built on somewhat greater early fall holdings than a year ago (37 million pounds on September 1, 1950; 21 million pounds one year earlier), the diversion from immediate use may be a much smaller proportion of the 1950 turkey crop than it was of the birds produced in 1949. This would require an increase in holiday turkey consumption much larger than the 6 percent increase in the size of the crop, if markets are to clear and if this expectation of smaller storage stocks is to materialize.

Table 10.- Eggs and poultry, annual average farm and retail prices, and civilian per capita disappearance, 1930 to date

Year	Eggs			Chickens			Turkeys 1/	
	Farm price per dozen	Retail prices (BAE) per dozen	Civilian per capita disappearance	Farm price per pound, live	Retail price (BAE) per pound, dressed	Civilian per capita disappearance, dressed weight	Farm price per pound, live	Civilian per capita disappearance, dressed weight
	Cents	Cents	Eggs	Cents	Cents	Pounds	Cents	Pounds
1930	23.7	37.3	329	18.4	39.0	21.5	20.0	1.8
1931	17.6	27.5	331	15.8	34.9	19.4	19.1	1.7
1932	14.2	22.8	311	11.8	26.7	19.7	12.7	2.1
1933	13.8	21.2	295	9.5	23.5	20.3	11.6	2.4
1934	17.1	25.1	287	11.3	29.0	18.8	15.1	2.2
1935	23.4	30.8	278	14.9	29.9	18.1	20.1	2.1
1936	21.8	31.0	287	15.8	31.1	18.1	15.6	2.7
1937	21.3	29.5	306	15.9	31.3	18.0	18.1	2.7
1938	20.3	28.8	308	15.4	30.1	16.8	17.5	2.7
1939	17.4	25.1	311	13.5	27.6	18.7	15.7	3.0
1940	18.0	26.3	317	13.2	28.1	18.7	15.4	3.5
1941	23.5	33.2	311	15.8	30.2	20.5	19.9	3.5
1942	30.0	42.0	316	19.0	36.1	23.4	27.5	3.7
1943	37.1	51.1	346	24.5	41.5	30.5	32.6	3.3
1944	32.5	48.3	350	24.0	41.7	26.8	34.0	3.3
1945	37.7	52.1	397	26.1	43.1	28.8	33.6	4.3
1946	37.5	52.4	374	28.0	48.7	25.4	36.2	4.5
1947	45.3	63.2	379	26.8	51.1	23.6	36.4	4.5
1948	47.2	66.6	386	30.6	56.7	23.1	46.7	3.6
1949 2/	45.1	63.9	379	25.7	53.8	25.3	35.1	4.1
1950 3/			384			26.0		5.0

1/ Retail prices not available

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Estimated.

Table 11.- Eggs: Per capita consumption and retail value, and unit cost, compared with consumer income, United States, 1913-50
Index numbers (1935-39=100)

(Data for cover chart)

Year	Consumption 1/	Unit cost 2/	Retail value	Consumer income 3/
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1913	101	97	98	69
1914	98	101	99	68
1915	105	92	97	71
1916	100	105	105	82
1917	94	134	126	98
1918	97	158	154	108
1919	102	173	176	122
1920	100	192	192	127
1921	100	155	155	99
1922	106	143	150	105
1923	110	156	170	119
1924	109	160	173	118
1925	107	158	168	123
1926	114	149	168	126
1927	115	134	153	124
1928	113	145	163	126
1929	112	153	171	132
1930	110	125	138	117
1931	111	92	102	99
1932	104	74	77	75
1933	99	70	70	70
1934	96	85	82	80
1935	93	107	100	89
1936	96	106	102	101
1937	103	103	106	108
1938	103	98	102	98
1939	104	86	90	104
1940	106	90	96	112
1941	104	114	119	134
1942	106	146	155	169
1943	116	179	208	189
1944	117	166	195	208
1945	133	183	244	211
1946	126	184	232	218
1947	127	223	283	233
1948	130	235	306	254
1949 4/	126	226	285	251
1950 5/	128	180	230	250

1/ Includes eggs consumed on farms.

2/ Retail value of civilian consumption adjusted for quantity consumed by farmer producers at average price received by farmers.

3/ 1913-28 Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates based on National Income data published by the Department of Commerce. 1929 to date, published estimates of the Department of Commerce.

4/ Preliminary.

5/ Tentative indication.

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